CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. – 9. (cancelled)

10. (previously presented) A method for providing a service for estimating the obtainable bandwidth of a client's network connection, said method comprising:

a service provider receiving, from a server, a request for bandwidth estimation of a bandwidth of a connection between the server and the client;

the service provider responding to the request for bandwidth estimation by providing the client with a snippet that is an executable configured to request the server to serve first and second objects, in a chronologically sequential manner, to the client via the connection;

the service provider receiving, from the snippet at the client, information indicative of time elapsed between delivery of the first and second objects; and

estimating the bandwidth of the connection based in part on the elapsed time.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising, maintaining response time data for the server and alerting the server based the server response time for a selected client and the estimated bandwidth associated with the selected client.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the snippet identifies the first and second objects with URLs that are unique on the network connecting the client and the server.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the server responds to the requests for the first and second objects by transmitting the first and second objects to the client from a content distribution network server that is architecturally proximal to an ISP server to which the client is connected.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13, where the second object has a size less than or equal to a minimum transmission unit associated with the network, wherein the second object is prevented from fragmentation.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising invoking the snippet multiple times to obtain multiple estimates of the bandwidth and selecting the highest bandwidth estimate.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the snippet includes:

      instructions for creating first and second image objects;

      instructions for generating a unique identifier (uniqueID); and

      instructions for associating the first and second image objects with the first and second objects on the server using URLs containing the uniqueID.

17. – 20. (cancelled)